

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: L. David Chambers  
Serial No.: 09/678,338  
Filed: October 3, 2000  
Title: DISTRIBUTED SWITCHING PLATFORM AND  
METHOD OF OPERATING THE SAME  
Grp./A.U.: 2668  
Examiner: Ahmed Elallam

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed  
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May 4, 2006 (Date)  
Debbie Sams  
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/Debbie Sams/  
(Signature of the person signing the certificate)

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SUBMITTED WITH RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)**

Before continuing examination of the above-identified application, please refer to the below arguments and amend the claims as indicated.